Vishwa Bharati request to amend the Copyright Act

2263. DR. C. NARAYANA REDDY: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any representation from Vishwa Bharati to amend the Copyright Act, extending the copyright tenure to 75 years;

(b) whether Government propose to amend the Copyright Act in the interest of Tagore's works; and

(c) if not, how do Government propose to ensure maintenance of standards in the publication of Targore's work and conserve his literary legacy?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No. Sir.

(c) There is no agency with the Government to prescribe standards for publication of reputed authors. The academia and the learned scholars are expected to take care of these standards.

Social Studies Syllabus of CBSE

2264. DR. C. NARAYANA REDDY: will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that a student appearing for CBSE examination in Social Studies has to answer questions from 100 chapters in three hours;

(b) whether Government consider the syllabus for Social Studies to be heavy; and

(c) if so, whether there are any proposals to streamline and reduce it?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI): (a) As per information received from the Central Board of Secondary

Education (CBSE), there are 28 chapters in the syllabus prescribed for the subject of Social Science in class X.

(b) and (c) The CBSE has received certain representations stating that the syllabus prescribed for the subject of 'Social Science' is heavy. The Board has referred the matter to the National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT) for appropriate remedial measures while designing the new curriculum.

Career Oriented Courses

2265. SHRI R.K. ANAND: will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether in view of large-scale drop-out in schools, Government would introduce vocational/career oriented courses at 10 and 10+2 levels, to equip students for more employment opportunities; and

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI): (a) and (b) The National Policy on Education provides that the Vocational Education will also be a separate stream, intended to prepare students for identified occupations spanning several areas of activity. These courses will ordinarily be provided after the secondary stage, but keeping the scheme flexible, may also be made available after class VIII. Accordingly, under Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Vocationalisation of Secondary Education vocational courses have been introduced in more than 6000 schools in the country. At the higher secondary level more than 150 courses are being offered under six major disciplines of Agriculture, Business & Commerce, Engineering and Technology, Home Science, Health & Para medical and Humanities.